

United States Attorney's Office District of Columbia

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NEWS RELEASE

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"Bloods" Gang Member Found Guilty of Robbery and Criminal Street Gang Affiliation

-- Defendant and two others robbed woman in Woodley Park --

WASHINGTON - On Thursday, March 12, 2009, a 22-year-old District of Columbia man, David Waters, was found guilty of Robbery and Criminal Street Gang Affiliation by a District of Columbia Superior Court jury, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor announced today. The charges stem from a May 29, 2008 incident where Waters and two others approached, beat, and robbed a young woman walking home along Connecticut Avenue in Woodley Park, NW (PSA 204), at about 1:00 a.m.

Waters, of the 400 block of 18th Street, NE, Washington, D.C., faces up to 30 years in prison, in part because of his prior record, when sentenced on May 15, 2009, before the Honorable John Mott.

The evidence at trial showed that, following their assault and robbery of the woman, the three culprits fled towards Rock Creek Park. A U.S. Secret Service sergeant, flagged down by the woman immediately following the robbery, spotted the three shortly after they had fled. Coordinating with D.C. Metropolitan Police Department officers, he stopped the culprits without incident. Shortly thereafter, the woman identified the three, who had her purse and mobile phone in their possession.

The evidence at trial also demonstrated that the robbers were members of a local "set" of the Bloods gang, calling itself the "662 Boss M.O.B. Piru." Membership in the gang involved regular participation in crimes such as robberies, narcotics distribution and the prostitution of female gang members. In addition, members, including these individuals, marked themselves with distinctive tattoos and body markings and displayed gang colors.

This is one of the first cases tried under the District's law prohibiting offenses committed in association with, or for the benefit of a criminal street gang, passed as part of other criminal reforms in July 2006.

In announcing the guilty verdict, U.S. Attorney Taylor commended U.S. Secret Service Sergeant Mike Kuchinsky, lead Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Detective Nelson Morais, Inv. Brian Bradol, and Officers Roberto Corchado, Everette Copeland and Keith Gilbert. U.S. Attorney Taylor also thanked paralegal Kalisha Johnson-Clark, who prepared the case for trial. Finally, U.S. Attorney Taylor expressed his appreciation to Assistant U.S. Attorney Jonathan Hooks, who investigated, indicted and tried the case.

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